

Remarks/Arguments

The Applicant has amended the claims to clearly show the differences between the invention and the prior art. In particular, claim 1, as amended, includes several limitations not present in the prior art.

A first limitation not present in Ono or Rescorla et al. is that the lip mount padding is entirely below the lip mount. As seen in Ono, seal 48 is positioned within a recess at the edge of insert 46. Such a positioning complicates the positioning of the cover and impeller, a problem overcome by the present invention.

In a similar fashion, a limitation of claim 1 is that the lip mount rests entirely above the lip, whereas in Ono, insert 46 extends below the lip, and the seal 48 is positioned within the neck, rather than above it, as in the present invention. This further makes insertion of the seal and insert more complicated.

Also, Ono does not include the limitation that the lip mount threadably engages the housing for a shaft. Instead, a nut 54 is used to hold bearing 52 to insert 46. Again, the presence of the nut complicates the use and insertion of the lip mount and cover, a problem overcome in the present invention.

Finally, Ono and Rescorla et al. do not disclose the use of an impeller (commonly defined as a rotor located in a conduit to impart motion to a fluid; a blade of a rotor). Instead a screw is present in Rescorla et al., which while easier to insert, may not provide the desired mixing quality; and in Ono, the entire agitator is moved.

Given the above, the Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

This response is accompanied by a request for a two-month extension of time for replying to the Office Action, along with fees for the extension. In the event that any other fees are considered due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, such fees may be charged to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Guss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

By:

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DI-33-031209

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